

Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 01197.0261

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
)	
Tomotaka HASHIMOTO et al.)	
)	Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned
Application No.: Not Yet Assigned)	
)	Examiner: Not Yet Assigned
Filed: December 16, 2005)	
)	
National Stage of International Application No.)	
PCT/JP2004/008334 under 35 U.S.C. 371, for)	
MEMBRANE CARTRIDGE, MEMBRANE)	
SEPARATING DEVICE, AND MEMBRANE)	
SEPARATING METHOD)	

MAIL STOP PCT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants bring to the Examiner's attention the documents listed on attached Form PTO/SB/08 and cited in the international search report. Copies of the listed documents are attached. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the documents listed on attached Form PTO/SB/08 and indicate that they were considered by making an appropriate notation on this form. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed with the above-referenced application.

The following are listed on the accompanying PTO/SB/08 and are in a non-English language:

1. Japanese Patent Publication No. 2000-157846 - The relevance of this document is discussed at page 3 of the specification of the present application. An English language abstract of this document is also enclosed. An English language abstract of this document is also enclosed.

2. Japanese Patent Publication No. 04-046170 - An English language abstract of this document is enclosed.

3. WIPO Publication No. WO 02/04101 A1 - An English language abstract of this document is enclosed.

Also enclosed is an English-language international search report from the Japanese Patent Office in the PCT international application, from which this national phase U.S. application is derived, citing documents 2 and 3 and setting forth the relevance thereof.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents. Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: December 16, 2005

By: 
Arthur S. Garrett
Reg. No. 20,338

Enclosures
ASG/FPD/sci

IDS Form PTO/SB/08: Substitute for form 1449A/PTO <h2 style="text-align: center;">INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">(Use as many sheets as necessary)</p>				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	Not Yet Assigned
				Filing Date	December 16, 2005
				First Named Inventor	Tomotaka HASHIMOTO et al.
				Art Unit	Not Yet Assigned
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
				Attorney Docket Number	01197.0261
Sheet	1	of	1		

U.S. PATENTS AND PUBLISHED U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Issue or Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			

Note: Copies of the U.S. Patent Documents are not Required in IDS filed after October 21, 2004

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	Translation ⁵
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		JP 2000-157846	06-13-2000	SUGA et al.		ABSTRACT
		JP 04-046170	07-29-1992	TAMURA		ABSTRACT
		WO 02/04101 A1	01-17-2002	WATANABE et al.		ABSTRACT

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	Translation ⁶

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-----------------------	--	--------------------	--

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.